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HUNTINGTON MAN AND WOMAN PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Stephen Christopher Hicks, 48, of Huntington, West Virginia pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to distribution of a quantity of cocaine base, also known as “crack.” Lakasia Woolfolk, 24, of Huntington also pleaded guilty yesterday to aiding and abetting the distribution of a quantity of cocaine base. On June 2, 2010 an undercover agent working with the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) arranged through Woolfolk, the purchase of two 8-balls of crack cocaine that was to be delivered to the Smokin’ Aces store located in Huntington by co-defendant, Hicks. Hicks admitted to arriving at the store to deliver the crack cocaine and while inside the store, called Woolfolk to discuss the details of the drug transaction. Hicks further admitted that the amount of crack given to the undercover agent was short of what the agent and Woolfolk had initially agreed on. The agent proceeded with the drug buy with the quantity of crack that Hicks had to offer in exchange for \$305. Hicks also admitted to making additional sales of crack cocaine at the same location on June 18th, 24th and 25th of last year.

Both Hicks and Woolfolk face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when they are sentenced on July 11, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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